



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
08/680,067	07/15/1996	WAYNE J. SCHMIDT		6114

7590 09/08/2004  
PERKINS COLE LLP  
P.O. BOX 1247  
SEATTLE, WA 98111-1247

EXAMINER

LEADER, WILLIAM T

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

1742

DATE MAILED: 09/08/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	08/680,067	SCHMIDT ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
	William T. Leader	1742	

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --**

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 October 2002.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 40-55 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 40-55 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                        | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)                     |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)    | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____  |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____   | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                                    |

### DETAILED ACTION

1. This office action is a response to the amendment of October 3, 2002. Claims 40-55 are pending.

#### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112*

2. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

3. Claims 40-55 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.
4. Applicant's Remarks have been carefully considered but are not deemed to be persuasive. The most pertinent portion of applicant's specification as it relates to the claimed subject matter appears to be from page 17, line 19 to page 18, line 27; and page 20, lines 3-8. This appears to be the only portion of the specification which relates to levelers. Page 17, lines 19-23 explain that "To assist in ensuring that process fluid overflows into the annular gap 632 evenly, it is necessary to ensure that the cup upper edge 633 is level such that fluid does not flow off of one side of

cup 621 faster than on another side. To accomplish this objective, levelers are preferably provided with process bowl assembly 603." As shown in figure 8, cup 621 is positioned within bowl 616. Page 18 states that "Plating chamber assembly 603 is preferably provided with levelers 640 (only one of which is shown in this view) which allow the plating chamber assembly to be leveled relative to the top of the reservoir." It is noted that reference numeral 603 is associated with both a "plating chamber assembly" and a "process bowl assembly". In view of this terminology, the "plating chamber assembly" and "process bowl assembly" are considered to refer to the same structural element which is shown by numeral 603 in figure 8. This is the assembly which includes process bowl 616.

5. Claim 40 recites "a bowl leveler connected between said process bowl and said frame." This recitation does not agree with the specification or figure 8. The process bowl is shown as element 616. The process bowl assembly is shown as element 603. It is the process bowl assembly 603, not the process bowl as recited in claim 40, which is provided with levelers 640. It appears that claim 40 should recite a bowl leveler connected between a process bowl assembly, which comprises a process bowl, and the frame.

6. Claims 47 and 54 recite a leveling mechanism disposed about the process base. The term "process base" does not appear to have been used or defined in the specification. Thus, the subject matter of claims 47 and 54 lack written description

in the specification. The specification describes a particular apparatus with a specific relationship between the disclosed elements. To the extent that the term process base is considered to be something other than a process bowl assembly in the combination disclosed in the specification, it constitutes new matter. Claims 47 and 54 fail to recite the relationship of the leveling mechanism to any other element of the apparatus (as in claim 40 which recites that the bowl leveler is connected between the process bowl and the frame). Claims 47 and 54 recite the function of allowing the leveling of the fluid cup. If applicant wishes to recite the leveling mechanism functionally, the expression "means for" should be employed and the structure included will be interpreted as that disclosed in the specification and equivalents thereof. There appears to be no basis in the specification as filed for claim limitations of the scope recited in non-original claims 47 and 54.

7. As indicated in the previous office action, there is no apparent basis in claims 47 and 54 for the limitation "pursuant to fabricating microelectronic components on the wafers". Applicant's specification is directed electrochemical processing apparatus as recited in claim 40

8. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to William T. Leader whose telephone number is 571-272-1245. The examiner can normally be reached on Mondays-Thursdays and alternate Fridays, 7:30-4:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Roy King, can be reached on 571-272-1244. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: 1742

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

WL  
William Leader  
August 30, 2004

ROY KING   
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 1700